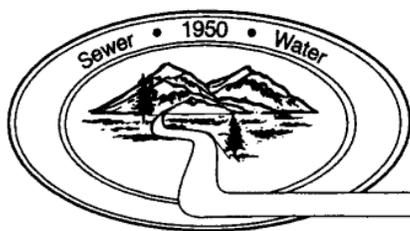


General Manager
John Thiel

Directors
Chris Cefalu
Shane Romsos
David Peterson
Kelly Sheehan
Nick Exline



South Tahoe Public Utility District

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September 21, 2021

Craig Altare, PG, Supervising Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Request for Guidance due to Impact of Emergencies; Alternative Plan for the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin (6-005.01)

Dear Mr. Altare;

As part of the Department of Water Resources (Department) approval of the Alternative Plan submitted by the South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) for the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin (TVS Subbasin), the Department has requested that the District submit the first five-year update of the Alternative Plan to the Department by January 1, 2022.

Following notification to the Department of its intent to draft an update to the Alternative Plan, the District and the El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA) have been working diligently to prepare the updated Alternative Plan which includes, among other tasks, conducting studies needed to develop new information to address recommended actions identified in the Department's Statement of Findings, conducting periodic review of the Alternative Plan, keeping stakeholders informed, and developing the updated Alternative Plan. The original schedule to timely complete the updated Alternative Plan has been significantly and adversely impacted for the reasons discussed below.

The state of emergency to address the global COVID-19 outbreak has severely impacted the District's resources, our interaction with consultants and stakeholders, and the time needed to conduct the update of the Alternative Plan. On top of this challenging time, the recent Caldor Wildfire has significantly impacted work schedules for the Plan Manager, our consultants, and our Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) members. We have all had to shift our focus to address preparing for—and recovering from—the Caldor Wildfire emergency. As a result, we have determined that the original project schedule for the updated Alternative Plan cannot be maintained as a direct result of these unusual and unparalleled catastrophic events.

Based on our review of the project schedule, discussion with consultants, and polling our SAG members about their ability and timelines to review the draft Alternative Plan, we believe that we will need at least an additional 120 days to finalize and submit an updated Alternative Plan to the Department. A significant portion of the requested extension is to accommodate work by District staff and our consultants that has been interrupted and delayed and to allow sufficient time for review and comment by SAG members who have been significantly impacted by the Caldor Fire. SAG members are currently estimating that it may take them at least six to eight weeks to provide comments on a draft Alternative Plan, which then needs to be reviewed and addressed by District staff and consultants. A copy of the Revised Project Schedule is attached for your information.

We understand from our conversations that the Department cannot waive the statutory January 1, 2022 deadline for submittal of the updated Alternative Plan. As a result of the District not being able to timely submit the updated Alternative Plan, the District is concerned about the State Water Resources Control Board placing the TVS Subbasin on Probationary status despite our best efforts to complete the update to the Alternative Plan as soon as possible. The District requests guidance from the Department on how to proceed in light of the above-described circumstances. We also respectfully request that the Department expedite its guidance as soon possible.

Should you have any questions or require and further information for this request, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at ibergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us or directly by phone at (530) 543-6204.

Sincerely,



Ivo Bergsohn, PG, HG
Hydrogeologist

Cc: M. Katy Janes, California Department of Water Resources
K. Payne, El Dorado County Water Agency
G. Kvistad, Brown, Hyatt, Faber and Schreck
J. Thiel, General Manger

Enclosures: Revised Project Schedule

Revised Project Schedule

| | ITEM | START DATE | END DATE |
|--|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| | 2021 SAG 3 - working draft to SAG | 9/8/2021 | 11/5/2021 |
| | Alternative Plan - SAG Review | 11/5/2021 | 12/21/2021 |
| | Address SAG Comments | 12/22/2021 | 1/21/2022 |
| | Alternative Plan Notice of Availability (30-Day Comment Period) | 1/26/2022 | 2/25/2022 |
| | EDWA Public Hearing I: Alternative Plan | 1/30/2022 | 2/9/2022 |
| | STPUD Public Hearing I: Public Draft Alternative Plan | 2/7/2022 | 2/17/2022 |
| | Prepare summary of comments and responses | 2/28/2022 | 3/21/2022 |
| | EDWA Public Hearing II: Public Comments -Consider to Adopt I | 4/3/2022 | 4/13/2022 |
| | STPUD Public Hearing II: Public Comments -Consider to Adopt I | 4/11/2022 | 4/21/2022 |
| | TSS Alternative to DWR | 4/26/2022 | 4/28/2022 |